



Hardback

9781978844018, \$34.95

eBook

9781978844025, \$34.95

Date: January 2026

Pages: 315



Rupert García

The Making of an American Artist, a Testimonio

by Mario T. García

DESCRIPTION

This is the first biography of the renowned American Chicano visual artist and activist Rupert García, drawing on fifty hours of interviews conducted over thirty years and accompanied by eighty images. This in-depth oral history gives an unparalleled look at García's life and work, tracing his evolution as an artist and the political upheavals that shaped his life and worldview.

Mario T. García's *testimonio* places Rupert García's art in historical perspective, from his beginnings as a working-class Mexican American from California's Central Valley, his coming of age in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, his involvement in the antiwar movement during the San Francisco State student strike in 1968-69, and his participation in the Chicano Movement and beyond. Influenced by history and politics, García's vital works of art represent a changing world through the eyes of an artist, speaking to issues of poverty, racism, capitalism, war, and the role of the artist in society.

His art—from revolutionary silkscreen posters to monumental pastels to portraits of political icons like Frida Kahlo, Che Guevara, and Dolores Huerta—serves to critique history and reassess it. It is work that will endure for generations to come.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

MARIO T. GARCÍA is a distinguished professor of Chicano studies and history at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has published over 20 books over the course of his career, including *Blowout!: Sal Castro and the Chicano Struggle for Educational Justice* and *The Latino Generation: Voices of the New America*.

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